(c) Promotional activities like extensive awareness and advocacy efforts are undertaken by Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA) and its associated agencies to encourage Indian couples for adoption of Indian children.

Social security benefits to anganwadi workers

4273. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would provide social security benefits to Anganwadi workers; and

(b) whether Government would agree to pay price-index linked D.A. to Anganwadi workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The Anganwadi Karyakartri Bima Yojana, for Anganwadi workers and Anganwadi helpers, under the ICDS, is in force.

The premium under the Scheme is Rs. 280/- per annum per member out of which Rs. 100/- is paid by LIC from Social Security fund, Rs. 100/- by the Government of India. The Rs. 80/- which was to be paid by the Anganwadi worker/helper (insured member), has since been waived off *w.e.f.* 1.4.2007 for two years.

The total number of lives covered under this scheme, during 2006-07 is 4,59,633.

(b) The ICDS Scheme envisages Anganwadi workers to be "honorary" workers from the local community who come forward to render services on part time basis. They are paid a monthly honoraria, as decided by the Government from time to time. Being honorary workers, the question of payment of Dearness Allowance does not arise.

Hostels for working women

4274. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hostels for working women run by Central Social Welfare Board, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that these hostels are in poor maintenance, and hostel premises are utilized for commercial and other purposes;